

# We See Jesus (3): And We Are His House

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(Hebrews 3:1-6)

## I. Introduction

- A. Howard Clinebell uses this parable to begin his book *Basic Types of Pastoral Counseling*
1. There was once a life-saving station built on the coast of a particularly dangerous sea
    - a. It was a hut with a single boat manned by courageous few who kept a constant vigil
    - b. Many lives were saved because of their dedication to their little life-saving station.
      - 1) Many of those who were saved volunteered to help in the work of life-saving.
      - 2) Money was contributed, more boats were bought and the facility was improved
    - c. These “members” met regularly to learn new techniques and more lives were saved
  2. Soon the station became a club where the growing membership met for social events.
    - a. Less time was invested in life-saving; it took too much work and too much time.
    - b. They hired professional crews to do that; they added to their life saving station.
    - c. Some began to complain about the boatloads of dirty, wet people in their station.
      - 1) Some wanted a separate facility for those; others wanted to cease all lifesaving
      - 2) Soon there was a split among the members, and new life-saving clubs appeared
      - 3) Soon there were dozens of life-saving stations built— but very little live-saving
  3. Today many ships still wreck upon that dangerous coast... but all the people drown
- B. This parable is, of course, a rather thinly-veiled indictment of what the church has become
1. Everyone agrees the church is to be about evangelism-- come it at the top of any poll
    - a. But when all is said and done—there is much more said than done about evangelism
    - b. Why? The church that is seeking the lost simply cannot be seeking to please itself
  2. Church is life-saving station, not country-club to keep charter members comfortable
    - a. How many members fail to attend meetings that can make us better life-savers?
    - b. How many members complain if anything is done differently, “*I’m not comfortable*”
    - c. How many members see church as their “spiritual club” here just to benefit them?
      - 1) The number one reason people leave any church? “*Just not meeting my needs*”
      - 2) Never hear, “*We need to try harder to meet the needs of the people not here!*”
  3. How many times do churches fight/divide over issues related to life-saving mission?
- C. Church that first read the book of Hebrews forgot who they were— *the point of the book*
1. They had become discouraged and disheartened with feeble arms and weak knees
  2. And they were about return to their past; forgot who they were. *Have we forgotten?*
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## II. We Are His House

- A. The writer begins by pointing his readers see Jesus afresh; we call series “*We See Jesus.*”
1. Actually, he has had them take two different fresh looks— point of first two lessons
    - a. He begins with majesty and power of Christ; Jesus just like God Himself (**Heb 1:3**)
    - b. Followed that with the humanity of Christ; Jesus is also just like each us (**Heb 2:17**)
  2. If they see Jesus as just like God and like them, surely they won’t return to synagogue
    - a. Because Jesus is fully God, He is powerful enough to deal with problems they face
    - b. Because he was fully human, he can understand those problems in every detail
- B. Now, he wants the readers need to take one more look at Jesus Christ.
1. This time they need to see Jesus in relationship to Moses (**Reading: Hebrews 3:1-6**)
    - a. Moses was a faithful servant in the house of God; in fact, there were few greater
      - 1) He led the people of God during the great watershed period of their history
      - 2) He led Israel into nationhood by the sheer force of his will and his faith.
    - b. He personified the OT (“*Law of Moses*”). To leave Jesus was to return to Moses!
  2. It makes sense the writer compares Moses and Jesus. Note the comparison (**3:5-6a**)
    - a. Moses was a faithful servant in God’s house, Jesus is the Son over God’s house!
    - b. Jesus is not just God’s servant but God’s Son— Moses serves in Jesus’ house!
- C. In this argument here, that shouldn’t just change how they saw Jesus, but themselves.
1. This gives them and us a whole new identity, right? We are God’s house (**Heb 3:6**)
    - a. Moses is the servant, but Jesus is the Son of the house... so Jesus is our brother
    - b. It is no longer just Jesus who refers to God as “*Abba, Father*” (**Rom 8:15-17**)
    - c. If we really see Jesus as He really is, that really changes how we see ourselves
  2. *We are God’s house!* This special identity as the people of God is all through the NT
    - a. How do I know God wants us to see ourselves special to Him? (**1 Peter 2:9-10**)
    - b. How do I know God wants us to see ourselves as His children? (**1 John 3:1-2**)
  3. It is all too easy to see church in terms of the mundane, ordinary, usual, predictable.
    - a. And we can see ourselves in that light too—ordinary, usual people, nothing special.
    - b. Church, there’s more about us than meets the eye! We are God’s house, His family!
      - 1) We are people of God—the hands and feet through which his work is done
      - 2) We are people of God— the bearers of His light & holiness in our world today
      - 3) We are people of God— ambassadors of His love and proclaimers of His truth

### III. Conclusion

- A. What would happen if we captured that vision of church today? Let me suggest 3 things
1. **First**, we would not be so FOCUSED on money and the things of money.
    - a. There was a time when I had a pretty simple (naïve) view about money and finances
      - 1) When an intern, couple was closing on house; invited me (*learn from experience*)
      - 2) I said, “*I’m preacher; I’ll never afford a house.*” Prophecy held true for awhile
    - b. I thought, “*My father will take care of me.*” At 19, that was true. That’s still is true.
    - c. If we believe God is our Father, would we run after money like pagans (**Matt 6:32**)
  2. **Second**, we would not be so FEARFUL of the powers that be in this present age!
    - a. For 8 years, believers on one side of the aisle— “*country is going down tubes*”
      - 1) Now Christians on the other side are hitting the panic button! I mean, really?
      - 2) If we are “*Children of the Heavens,*” would 1-2 election really screw things up?
    - b. What ever happened to “*and if God is for us, who can be against us*” (**Rom 8:31**)
    - c. Paul, “*to live is Christ, to die is gain*” (**Phil 1:21**). Guy like that didn’t panic much!
  3. **Third**, we would not be so FASCINATED by the sins of this present world
    - a. To give into our desires and become like world is to be the enemy of God (**Jam 4:4**)
      - 1) Most kids will at times stretch limits of rules if they think Daddy won’t know
      - 2) If most kids know Daddy is watching, it’s different! *Well, Daddy is watching!*
    - b. If we really believe that we are children of God, we will feel different about sin
    - c. Sin doesn’t just break God’s rules—breaks His heart. It sent Jesus to the cross
- B. In **Rev 4:3**, there’s emerald rainbow, and in center, a throne. In center of grace is a throne
1. It’s a majestic message, “*We are God’s house.*” There’s an “if,” “*If we hold on.*” (**3:6**)
    - a. This is Hebrews—so he points back to Israel, a people who were also God’s house
    - b. God led them out of Egypt only to have their bones be bleached in Sinai desert sun.
    - c. What’s the point? Surely, we’re not so dull that that we can’t get the point (**3:16-19**)
  2. Church, may we ever see ourselves as family of God. May we fix our eyes on Jesus
    - a. May we never give up our mission as lifesavers for the leisure of the shore.
    - b. May our vision of God’s house lead us onward to new heights of faithfulness.
    - c. May we leave behind our comfort and comfort zones as we serve God & others
  3. May we remember today that these words “*if we hold on*” words were intended to us